



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

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Follow safety guidelines for deep-frying Thanksgiving turkey

Turkey fryers can cause fires, explosions and injuries when used without caution, but by following safety guidelines, you can safely deep fry a delicious turkey feast.

The Travis County Fire Marshal's Office recommends following these safety guidelines:

- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed, and be careful with marinades. Liquid, including water from a partially defrosted turkey, combined with hot oil can cause an explosion and injuries. (Allow at least one day of refrigerated thawing for every four pounds of turkey.)
- Make sure the fryer is used on a flat surface. Many units easily tip over, spilling the hot oil.
- Oil is heated to temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit or more and is combustible. If heated beyond this temperature, its vapors can ignite. Make sure the appliance has temperature controls designed to shut off the fryer if the oil overheats and never leave the fryer unattended even after you remove the turkey. Hot means still dangerous.
- Propane-fired turkey fryers are designed for outdoor use. If rain strikes the exposed hot cooking oil, it can splatter and cause burns. Don't use a propane fryer in a garage, barn, on a wooden deck or under eaves of the house.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer. Oil may hit the burner or flames, causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- The lid and handles on the sides of the cooking pot get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards. Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles and wear a long-sleeve shirt. Wear closed-toe shoes to protect your feet and safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire increases, call 9-1-1.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer, even if it is not in use.

Media: Please call the Fire Marshal's Office for interviews or questions at 512-854-4621.

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